



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference F18652 AS/JW		FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/B2004/004261		International filing date (day/month/year) 23.12.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 25.12.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. B42F5/00 B42F5/04				
Applicant AVRAAMIDES, Helen				
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of 4 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>				
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>				
Date of submission of the demand 25.10.2005		Date of completion of this report 09.05.2006		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized officer Louvion, B Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2845 		

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITYInternational application No.
PCT/IB2004/004261

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):*

Description, Pages

2, 4-13 as originally filed

1, 3 received on 17.11.2005 with letter of 17.11.2005

Claims, Numbers

3-8 as originally filed

1, 2, 9-11 received on 17.11.2005 with letter of 17.11.2005

Drawings, Sheets

1-7 as originally filed

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/004261

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/IB2004/004261

I. Ad Section I.:

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 94 22 401 U1 (THALHOFER, EGON; THALHOFER, FRANK) 21 June 2001

D2: EP-A-1 060 910 (EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY) 20 December 2000

D3: US-A-5 301 445 (HOFFMEISTER ET AL) 12 April 1994

II. Ad Section V.:

2 The claimed invention for which protection is sought can be made or used (in the technological sense) in any kind of industry and shall therefore be considered industrially applicable according to Article 33(4)PCT.

3 None of the cited documents renders obvious the characterising features of the independent claim 1, neither alone nor in combination. The claim 1 of the present application is therefore considered as being novel (Article 33(2) PCT)

4 Document **D1**, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses a device from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that :

- (1) a plurality of photograph display devices for displaying at least one photograph each and
- (2) a binder within which the sleeves **and** the photograph display devices are received (emphasis added)

4.1 As none of the cited documents renders obvious the features (1) & (2) of claim 1 in combination with **D1**, the claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

4.2 More particularly, a file assembly including a combination of sleeves and photograph display devices secured in the same binder is not to be found in the available state of the art.

5 Claims **2-11** are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

AN ALBUM ASSEMBLY

5 **THIS INVENTION** relates to an album assembly. It more particularly relates to an album assembly for keeping personal records such as pictures, photographs, certificates, general or ceremonial documents, and the like.

 In accordance with the invention there is provided a file assembly for
10 keeping personal records, the assembly including, in combination:

 a plurality of sleeves, each sleeve having opposed operatively front and rear walls, the front wall being smaller than the rear wall, and the front wall having a periphery along part of which it is secured to the rear wall, such that the walls define between them a pocket, having a peripheral opening, for receipt of personal records;

15 a plurality of photograph display devices for displaying at least one photograph each; and

 a binder within which the sleeves and the photograph display devices are received, the binder having a securing mechanism for releasably securing each sleeve and each photograph display device in place therein.

20

 The binder may include a planar rectangular front cover, a planar rectangular rear cover, and a spine interconnecting the front cover and the rear cover and about which spine the binder is foldable book-fashion, the securing mechanism

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propagation of cracks or tears in the rear wall. Each sleeve may be of unitary construction, being formed from a single sheet of cardboard which is folded over on to itself to define the front wall and the rear wall, side edges of the front wall being folded towards each other to define flaps by means of which the side edges of the front wall
5 are secured to the rear wall.

Each photograph display device may include a rectangular transparent photograph-receiving pocket for receiving photographs or for receiving a sheet on which photographs are mounted.

10

Each photograph display device and the rear wall of each sleeve may be essentially the same shape and size when seen face-on, each photograph display device and the rear wall of each sleeve being smaller in outline than the front cover and the rear cover of the binder, such that the front and the rear covers of the binder
15 at free edges thereof overhang each sleeve and overhang each photograph display device received therebetween.

The photograph display devices may be interleaved between the sleeves to alternate therewith, an operatively rear face of the rear wall of each
20 sleeve providing writing for receiving written information associated with records kept in the pocket of the sleeve. Naturally, if desired, an operatively front face of the front wall of each sleeve may also provide designated writing space for receiving written information associated with personal

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CLAIMS:

1. A file assembly (10, 100) for keeping personal records, the assembly (10, 100) being characterized in that it includes, in combination:

5 a plurality of sleeves (12, 102), each sleeve having opposed operatively front and rear walls (22, 24), the front wall (22) being smaller than the rear wall (24), and the front wall (22) having a periphery along part of which it is secured to the rear wall (24), such that the walls (22, 24) define between them a pocket (38), having a peripheral opening (40), for receipt of personal records;

10 a plurality of photograph display devices (14, 104) for displaying at least one photograph each; and

a binder (16) within which the sleeves (12, 102) and the photograph display devices (14, 104) are received, the binder (16) having a securing mechanism (17) for releasably securing each sleeve (12, 102) and each photograph display device (14, 15 104) in place therein.

2. An assembly (10, 100) as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the binder (16) includes a planar rectangular front cover (64), a planar rectangular rear cover (66), and a spine (68) interconnecting the front cover (64) and the rear cover 20 (66) and about which spine (68) the binder (16) is foldable book-fashion, the securing mechanism (17) being located between the covers (64, 66) of the binder, each sleeve (12, 102) and each photograph display device (14, 104) being secured between the covers (64, 66) of the binder (16).

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102) being smaller in outline than the front cover (64) and the rear cover (66) of the binder (16), such that the front and the rear covers (64, 66) of the binder (16) at free edges thereof overhang each sleeve (12, 102) and overhang each photograph display device (14, 104) received therebetween.

5

10. An assembly (10, 100) as claimed in any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the photograph display devices (14, 104) are interleaved between the sleeves (12, 102) to alternate therewith, an operatively rear face (28) of the rear wall (24) of each sleeve (12, 102) provides writing space for receiving written
10 information associated with records kept in the pocket (38) of the sleeve (12, 102).

11. An assembly (10, 100) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it includes a protective cover (20) within which the binder (16) is received for protecting it, the cover being in the form of a box-shaped sheath.

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